Statement-II

Number of telephones surrendered in MTNL during the last 3 years are as under:

Year	Telephone surrendered	
	Delhi	Mumbai
2001-02	41,140	1,02,402
2002-03	46,218	1,04,387
2003-04	1,90,592	1,86,650

Charges of money orders

914. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the postal department charges exhorbitant rates for money orders;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the money order charges are usually higher than the cost of demand draft from banks;

(c) what are the reasons for the post office charging un-competitive rates for money orders;

(d) whether any steps would be taken to reduce such charges; and

(e) the details of other steps Government propose to initiate to help those people who do not have any access to banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. As per 2003-04 (Projection) the cost of the service is Rs. 53.80 whereas its average revenue is Rs. 25.35 per unit. Thus, the service is estimated to have been in deficit to the tune Rs. 331.47 crores during the financial year 2003-04.

(b) the charges of money orders are Re.1/- for Rs. 20/- and part thereof. Money is paid at the address of the payee and the payee does not pay any other charges for this. On the other hand, draft usually has minimum charges of Rs. 25/-. In addition, a remitter has to spend money on postage for its trasmission also. Moreover, a payee has to attend a bank for collecting payment. The money order service meets customer's needs of delivery at his doorsteps.

(c) There is no competition between money order and draft as the two serve different requirement. Money Order conveys cash with the facility of home delivery and message conveying purpose and use of money sent.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

In-accessibility of computers to rural areas

915. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that representations have been made over the high cost of computer in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that noted organization like the Forum on Social Justice have continuously demanded that Government address the in-accessibility of computers to rural areas and poor sections;

(c) whether by any meeting Government was called to discuss this issue; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to address issues raised on this subject of high-cost computers?